

POPULATION: Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Use of Population Data in Vital Event Surveillance

Simple counts of information collected on vital certificates are helpful in planning provisions for health services, because they document the number of people who experience health events in a particular geographic area.

When questions concerning *comparisons* between groups arise, however, simple counts are often misleading, because they do not account for differences in the composition of the groups. For example, more people die in towns where the majority of the inhabitants are elderly than in towns with a majority of young adults, simply because older people die more often than younger people do. Does this mean that the town with the older population has an abnormally high occurrence of death? To answer questions concerning the magnitude of a vital event and to enhance the ability to compare groups with each other, statisticians calculate rates.

Rates provide a way to compare the number of events that occurred with the number of people in the group for which that event could have occurred. They are calculated by dividing the number of events by the number of people in the group, then multiplying the quotient by some number (such as 1,000 or 100,000) to standardize the calculation so it can be compared easily with rates for other groups. In many instances, census population data are used to estimate the number of people in the group for which the event could have occurred.

Louisiana population figures provide a frame of reference for examining the vital events that occur within the resident population within a particular year. State population figures are used to calculate the overall rates at which births and deaths occur throughout the state.

Source of Data: Population Estimates

For the years that fall between the ten-year census counts, intercensal population estimates are calculated by the United States Census Bureau and the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University. These estimates of yearly populations are based on determinations of the number of births, deaths, and migrations into and out of the state on an annual basis.

Intercensal population estimates provided by the United States Bureau of the Census were used to calculate rates in the state summary portion of this report. Intercensal population estimates provided by the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University were used to calculate rates presented in the Parish and Region tables.

Population Estimates

Population estimates for 1999 place the number of Louisiana residents at 4,372,035. Between 1945 and the mid-1980s, the total population in Louisiana saw a steady increase. In the late 1980s, the state experienced a net population loss, primarily because of migration out of the state. Since that time, population levels have risen to their early 1980s level. Historical estimates of the total Louisiana population are shown in Table P1. Estimates grouped by sex, race, and age describe the composition of Louisiana's population. These estimates are used to calculate rates that allow for comparisons of vital events among population subgroups (Table P2).

Table P1.											
Population Counts											
Louisiana, 1945-1999											
Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population						
1945	2,429,000	1964	3,446,000	1983	4,395,316						
1946	2,556,000	1965	3,496,000	1984	4,400,477						
1947	2,579,000	1966	3,550,000	1985	4,408,118						
1948	2,596,000	1967	3,581,000	1986	4,406,919						
1949	2,634,000	1968	3,603,000	1987	4,344,148						
1950	2,697,000	1969	3,619,000	1988	4,288,863						
1951	2,769,000	1970	3,644,637	1989	4,252,894						
1952	2,842,000	1971	3,710,487	1990	4,219,179						
1953	2,866,000	1972	3,761,646	1991	4,240,150						
1954	2,883,000	1973	3,788,375	1992	4,270,849						
1955	2,946,000	1974	3,820,109	1993	4,284,749						
1956	3,032,000	1975	3,886,104	1994	4,306,500						
1957	3,115,000	1976	3,950,605	1995	4,327,978						
1958	3,155,000	1977	4,014,459	1996	4,338,763						
1959	3,208,000	1978	4,068,579	1997	4,351,390						
1960	3,260,000	1979	4,137,665	1998	4,362,758						
1961	3,287,000	1980	4,205,900	1999	4,372,035						
1962	3,345,000	1981	4,283,303								
1963	3,377,000	1982	4,352,608								

Source: United States Census Bureau

Table P2.
Population Counts by Sex, Race, and Age Groups 0-49
Louisiana, 1999

_	_					Age C	∋roup				
Sex	Race	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
	White	93,446	95,823	99,200	110,985	100,989	90,941	94,355	111,673	118,998	105,511
Male	Black	62,999	66,929	67,114	71,721	57,548	43,885	41,585	45,777	47,063	40,252
	Other	3,431	3,325	3,423	3,638	3,233	2,785	2,642	2,889	2,787	2,435
	Total	159,876	166,077	169,737	186,344	161,770	137,611	138,582	160,339	168,848	148,198
	White	89,869	91,375	94,752	106,637	98,570	94,802	96,110	112,039	118,120	107,011
Female	Black	61,230	65,226	65,700	73,387	64,422	50,747	48,470	53,732	56,001	50,153
	Other	3,175	3,093	3,094	3,618	3,067	2,971	2,677	2,856	2,970	2,804
	Total	154,274	159,694	163,546	183,642	166,059	148,520	147,257	168,627	177,091	159,968

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Table P2 (cont.)
Population Counts by Sex, Race, and Age Groups 50-85+
Louisiana, 1999

		Age Group									
Sex	Race	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total	
	White	91,967	73,943	62,631	48,754	43,808	33,550	18,031	11,842	1,406,447	
Male	Black	29,810	22,398	18,115	15,063	12,349	8,724	4,990	4,350	660,672	
	Other	1,843	1,357	987	662	506	369	182	212	36,706	
	Total	123,620	97,698	81,733	64,479	56,663	42,643	23,203	16,404	2,103,825	
	White	95,807	79,163	67,499	58,499	57,046	47,944	31,589	29,502	1,476,334	
Female	Black	38,523	30,138	25,606	21,360	17,785	13,594	8,712	9,737	754,523	
	Other	2,150	1,428	1,152	802	625	370	236	265	37,353	
	Total	136,480	110,729	94,257	80,661	75,456	61,908	40,537	39,504	2,268,210	

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Subgroup estimates expressed as percent of total population show the population compositions for the state and the nation are very similar in the distribution of sex and age

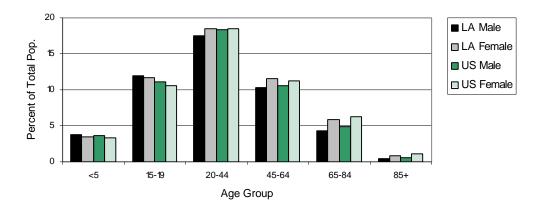
(Figure P1, Table P3). For both the state and the nation, the largest age group is 20-44 years, and the smallest age group is 85+ years.

The United States' population is, as

Louisiana's population (Figure P1, Table P3).

a whole, slightly older than

Figure P1. Percent of Total Population by Sex and Age Group Louisiana and United States, 1999



Source: US Census Bureau 1999 Population Estimates

Table P3.
Percent of Total Population by Sex and Age Group
Louisiana and United States, 1999

					Age Group			
Location	Sex	<5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85+	All Ages
	Male	3.7	11.9	17.5	10.3	4.3	0.4	48.1
LA	Female	3.5	11.6	18.5	11.5	5.9	0.9	51.9
	Both	7.2	23.5	36.0	21.8	10.2	1.3	100.0
	Male	3.6	11.1	18.4	10.5	4.8	0.5	48.9
US	Female	3.4	10.6	18.5	11.2	6.3	1.1	51.1
	Both	6.9	21.7	37.0	21.7	11.1	1.5	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

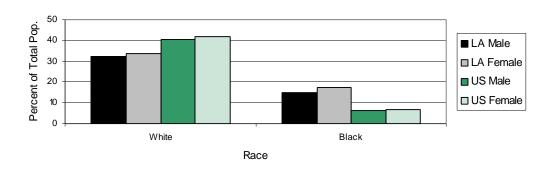
In Louisiana, blacks comprise 32% of the population. In the United States, blacks comprise less than 13% of the population (Figure P2, Table P4). Within individual age groups, specific race and sex distributions become more disparate as age increases.

As Louisiana's population ages, the proportion of women to men increases. In age groups less than 44 years of age, the percentages of men and women are nearly equal. In age groups older than 45 years, women increasingly outnumber men. In the 85+ age group, there

are almost three times as many women as men (Fig. P3, Table P5). In age groups less than 19 years old, similar distributions of race and sex are seen, but among older age groups, whites increasingly

outnumber lacks, and females outnumber males. In the 85+ age group, for example, white females outnumber black males by more than seven to one (Figure P4, Table P5).

Figure P2. Percents of Total Population by Sex and Race Louisiana and United States, 1999



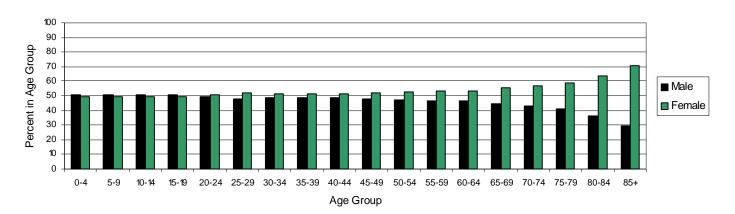
Source: US Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Table P4.
Percent of Total Population by Race and Sex
Louisiana and United States, 1999

		Race					
Location	Sex	White	Black	Other	Total		
,	Male	32.2	15.1	0.8	48.1		
LA	Female	33.8	17.3	0.9	51.9		
	Both	65.9	32.4	1.7	100.0		
,	Male	40.5	6.1	2.3	48.9		
US	Female	41.9	6.7	2.5	51.1		
	Both	82.4	12.8	4.8	100.0		

Source: US Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Figure P3. Percent Distribution of Sex Within Age Group Louisiana, 1999



Source: US Census Bureau. 1999 Population Estimates

60 50 40 30 20 0-4 5-9 10-14 15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 65-69 70-74 75-79 80-84 85+
Age Group

Figure P4. Distribution of Race and Sex Within Age Group Louisiana, 1999

Source: US Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Table P5.
Percent of Sex and Race Within Age Groups 0-49
Louisiana, 1999

_	_	Age Group									
Sex	Race	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
	White	29.7	29.4	29.8	30.0	30.8	31.8	33.0	33.9	34.4	34.2
Male	Black	20.1	20.5	20.1	19.4	17.6	15.3	14.5	13.9	13.6	13.1
	Other	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
	Total	50.9	51.0	50.9	50.4	49.3	48.1	48.5	48.7	48.8	48.1
	White	28.6	28.0	28.4	28.8	30.1	33.1	33.6	34.1	34.1	34.7
Female	Black	19.5	20.0	19.7	19.8	19.7	17.7	17.0	16.3	16.2	16.3
	Other	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
	Total	49.1	49.0	49.1	49.6	50.7	51.9	51.5	51.3	51.2	51.9

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Table P5 (cont.) Percent of Sex and Race Within Age Groups 50-85+ Louisiana, 1999

_		Age Group								
Sex	Race	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
	White	35.4	35.5	35.6	33.6	33.2	32.1	28.3	21.2	32.2
Male	Black	11.5	10.7	10.3	10.4	9.3	8.3	7.8	7.8	15.1
	Other	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8
	Total	47.5	46.9	46.4	44.4	42.9	40.8	36.4	29.3	48.1
	White	36.8	38.0	38.4	40.3	43.2	45.9	49.6	52.8	33.8
Female	Black	14.8	14.5	14.5	14.7	13.5	13.0	13.7	17.4	17.3
	Other	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.9
	Total	52.5	53.1	53.6	55.6	57.1	59.2	63.6	70.7	51.9

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1999 Population Estimates

Population estimates for each of Louisiana's 64 parishes show the distribution of the total population in the state. Parish-level population estimates are given in Table P6.

Table P6. Population Counts by Parish Louisiana, 1999								
Parish	1999 Estimate	Parish	1999 Estimate					
Acadia	57,806	Madison	12,930					
Allen	24,413	Morehouse	31,501					
Ascension	73,667	Natchitoches	37,400					
Assumption	22,862	Orleans	462,761					
Avoyelles	41,065	Ouachita	148,039					
Beauregard	31,907	Plaquemines	25,728					
Bienville	15,544	Pointe Coupee	23,214					
Bossier	94,387	Rapides	128,116					
Caddo	240,846	Red River	9,654					
Calcasieu	180,901	Richland	20,777					
Caldwell	10,593	Sabine	23,153					
Cameron	8,980	St. Bernard	66,903					
Catahoula	10,732	St. Charles	47,606					
Claiborne	17,114	St. Helena	8,961					
Concordia	20,803	St. James	21,362					
DeSoto	25,436	St. John	41,664					
East Baton Rouge	399,105	St. Landry	83,334					
East Carroll	8,800	St. Martin	47,540					
East Feliciana	20,439	St. Mary	56,913					
Evangeline	34,168	St. Tammany	188,053					
Franklin	21,812	Tangipahoa	96,723					
Grant	18,962	Tensas	6,313					
Iberia	72,959	Terrebonne	104,317					
Iberville	31,258	Union	22,263					
Jackson	15,512	Vermilion	51,889					
Jefferson	454,447	Vernon	47,631					
Jefferson Davis	31,363	Washington	44,399					
Lafayette	187,001	Webster	42,886					
Lafourche	88,712	West Baton Rouge	20,446					
LaSalle	14,099	West Carroll	12,190					
Lincoln	41,371	West Feliciana	13,701					
Livingston	89,241	Winn	17,363					

Source: Louisiana Tech University